IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraphs [0018], [0033] and [0034] as follows:

[0018] A large diameter pipe joint 11 is moved from a storage location on a drilling rig to a vertical orientation in the drilling rig derrick to be run through the drilling rig floor RF, 12 into the sea or into the well bore below the rig. The lower end of the pipe joint 11 terminates as a threaded pin and the upper end terminates as a connector 11a in the form of an internally threaded box. Multiple pipe joints, such as the joint 11, are assembled to form a continuous flush joint pipe string of pipe that extends from the rig and through the sea to the sea bottom or into a well bore below the rig.

[0033] The dimension A of the projection 60 is less than the dimension B at the entry to the groove 62 so that the elevator 13 can be closed circumferentially about the connector 11a with the projection 60 received within the groove 62. The recess 62 ~~includes~~ has a surface 64 formed as a reverse angle shoulder ~~64a~~ adapted to engage and rest on a similarly angled surface 65 on the annular projection 60.

[0034] When the elevator 13 is gripped around the connector 11a, circumferential surfaces 68 on the connector 11a and 69 on the elevator 13 are brought together with a strong radially directed bearing force exerted by the bolts holding the elevator halves together. The resulting bearing pressure and surface friction between the surfaces 68 and ~~70~~ 69 prevent the elevator 13 from rotating relative to the connector 11a when the connector and its associated pipe joint 11 are being added to the pipe string 22.